

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

TRANSLATION

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference A5036SS-PCT		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	
International application No. PCT/JP2005/008019	International filing date (day/month/year) 27.04.2005	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC			
Applicant NEOMAX CO., LTD.			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box No. I	Basis of the opinion							
Box No. II	Priority							
Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability							
Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention							
Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement							
Box No. VI	Certain documents cited							
Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application							
Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application							

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.
PCT / JP2005/008019

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability:
citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-16	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP 2000-188213 A (Hitachi Metals, Ltd.)
& EP 994493 A2 & US 6468365 B1 & CN 1251464 A
& DE 69911138 E & KR 2000029088 A
Document 2: JP 2003-188006 A (Showa Denko K.K.)
& WO 2003052778 A1 & US 2005028892 A1
& CN 1526147 A & AU 2002358316 A1

A method for producing a raw material alloy for R-T-Q rare earth magnets described in claims 1-16 comprising a first cooling step, a temperature maintaining step, and a second cooling step is neither described nor suggested in any of the documents cited in the ISR; therefore, the inventions of claims 1-16 appear to be novel and involve an inventive step.